

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 16-18 are amended.

I. Claims 1-18 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion. Specifically, in a first embodiment of the present application, as shown in Figure 4, the specification in paragraph 40 discloses that the lower transparent electrode 15 can be formed over the inner surface of the lower substrate 11 having the large number of fine projections 21. That is, in this embodiment it is the lower substrate 11 that has the large number of fine projections 21. Accordingly, the cross hatching shown in Figure 4 indicates that the substrate 11 and projections 21 are made of the same material. The transparent electrode 15 has a different cross hatching.

In another embodiment of the invention, as shown in Figure 9, paragraph 67 of the specification discloses that the lower transparent electrode 55 has the large number of fine projections 61 and is formed on the inner surface of the lower substrate 51. That is, in this embodiment, the electrode has the large number of fine projection 61 and as shown in Figure 9, is made of the same material as indicated by the cross hatching. As shown in Fig. 9, this cross hatching is different from the cross hatching for the substrate 51.

In the §112 rejection, the Examiner is focused on the embodiment of Figure 4. However, the features recited in the claims with respect to the projections having the same material as the transparent electrodes are features disclosed with respect to Figure 9.

Further, the standards for drawings set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.84(h)(3) for sectional views provides that the various parts of a cross section of the same item should be hatched in the same manner and should accurately and graphically indicate the nature of the materials

that is illustrated in the cross section and that the hatching of juxtaposed different elements must be angled in a different way. In accordance with the rules set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.84, the drawings of the present application clearly show different materials for the transparent electrode and projections in contrast to the material for the substrate for at least the embodiment shown in Figure 9.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,274 to Inou in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,326,723 B1 to Raj et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Inou or Raj, nor their combination, teaches, discloses or even suggests that the transparent electrodes are formed from a conductive material and are provided with a plurality of projections that are formed from the same conductive material, as claimed in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claims 16-18.

Accordingly, the independent claims recite that the projections are the protruding portions of the upper surface of the transparent electrode and the projections are made from the same conductive material as the transparent electrodes. Support for the above recited features can be found at least in Figures 4 and 9.

The Examiner admits on page 5 of the Office Action that Inou in view Raj does not disclose that the plurality of projections are formed from the same material as the pair of transparent electrodes. However, the Examiner asserts that there is no disclosed criticality of having the transparent electrodes and projections to be of the same material. For at least the reasons discussed with respect to the §112, first paragraph rejections and for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position.

As shown in Figure 9, the projections 61 and 62 and the transparent electrodes 55 and 56 have the same hashing. As such, the projections 61 and 62 and the transparent electrodes 55 and 56 are formed from the same material. The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest the above discussed features. In contrast, Inou discloses various "insulating films" that the anti-reflective film 8 (the Examiner's projections) can be formed from, none of which are electrically conductive. That is, the touch panel of Inou has projections that are made from antireflective films 8 (insulating films). However, they are not made from transparent electrodes. See, for example, Figures 1 and 2 of Inou. Further, as discussed in column 4, lines 42-43 of Inou "on the transparent insulating films 2a and 2b, antireflective films 8 are provided by, for example, offset printing..." Thus, it is an object of the invention of Inou to provide a touch panel which enables a bright display screen when mounted on a display device without impairing the input sensitivity of the touch panel. In contrast, according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the plurality of projections are formed from transparent electrodes (conductive material).

Raj does not make up for the deficiency of Inou discussed above. Raj is silent about the material of the elements 16 other than the element could be light absorbing or light transmissive (see column 3, lines 3-15). As such, because the elements 16 are used in a phase plate, there is no reason to think they are formed from a conductive material. Further, Raj discloses a display screen 10 receiving image light to be displayed through or on the screen and rejects ambient light coming from the viewers side of the screen 10. Thus, Raj reports to provide a screen with adequate gain, brightness and contrast while improving ambient light rejection and reducing speckle. However, the display screen of Raj includes projections which are not made from transparent electrodes.

Accordingly, the applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest that both the transparent electrodes and the projections are formed from a conductive material, as claimed

in the independent claims and shown in the embodiment of Figure 9. Because the projections are also made from conductive material, electric contact can be assured when the touch panel is in use. The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest the features discussed with respect to the independent claims and therefore cannot provide the advantage discussed above with respect to the claimed features.

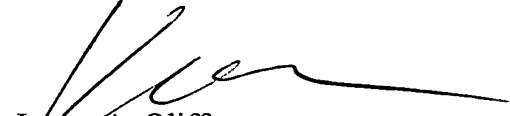
For at least the reasons outlined above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Inou and Raj is respectfully solicited.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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